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Stephan L. Stark

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Book a futuristic view for contemporary times

By Stephan L. Stark

Robert J. Shoop. **The Teacher and The Community: A Case Study Approach.** San Diego: Collegiate Publishing, Inc., 1979, 125 pp. \$9.95

In **The Teacher and the Community: A Case Approach**, Robert Shoop has written a futuristic textbook for contemporary times. Concerned for the ability of the emerging classroom teacher to cope with the demands of public school education that has truly gone public, the author has written an excellent primer for the professional training of the classroom teacher.

The text is divided into two primary sections. The first deals with an overview of the role of the school and community and the relationship the classroom teacher must now play. Alternative concepts are discussed to bring into focus the role of the teacher and the increasing demand placed on schooling by society. The concept of community education is reviewed as one alternative that may hold the key for integration of the classroom and community. Finally, the first section concludes with a listing

of realistic strategies that the teacher can use in order to begin to close the gap between the traditional school and contemporary society. These strategies include the role of volunteers in the classroom, senior citizens in the school as resource persons, nontraditional field trips, home visitations and the teacher as a referral agent to name a few.

Section II gives the student teacher a grouping of 15 case studies in four chapter headings that deal directly with the teacher's role as a professional, a liaison with community, students and the school curriculum. This section is perhaps the greatest strength of the book as it gives the student an exposure to the real world in a learning laboratory where solutions to problems outlined in the case study can be analyzed by peers and professionals with no penalties for poor judgment.

The cases are real and deal truly with the cutting edge issues of what the classroom teacher can expect in today's communities. Insights to these problems and carefully analyzed solutions can be invaluable to the classroom teacher of tomorrow who will have to make on the spot decisions that could very well determine the longevity of that teacher in the highly complex educational system of today. With law suits arriving daily in our courts dealing with teacher's accountability on all phases of educating children, the on the spot decisions made on a daily basis have a greater impact today than ever before in the history of education.

The weaknesses of **The Teacher and the Community** are minor when compared to its strength. The author provides questions for consideration at the end of each case study. He then immediately states his beliefs as to some of the acceptable solutions. This format makes it a bit awkward for making assignments in the classroom laboratory. However, more than one solution to each question is apparent, giving the student an opportunity to determining different solutions which may challenge those expressed by the author.

The Teacher and the Community is definitely worthwhile reading for the experienced teacher trying to stay up with the ever changing role they are expected to play in today's society. For the university professional conducting teacher training or in-service programs, this book provides a welcome change of pace from the traditional textbook approach and provides an excellent tool for classroom stimulation and simulation for the classroom teacher of tomorrow.